Application/Control Number: 09/686,626 Page 2

Art Unit: 2121

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. This action is responsive to the communications filed 1/12/10, 12/08/09, 10/29/09, 9/18/09, 7/6/09, 7/1/09, 4/2/09, and 1/7/09.

- 2. Claims 1-12, 31-41, 60-96, 98, 99,101-111,113-127,129, 132,135, 141, and 142 are pending. Claims 13-30, 42-59, 97, 100, 112, 128, 130,131, 133, 134, and 136-140 have been cancelled.
- 3. Claims 1-12, 31-41, 60-96, 98, 99,101-111,113-127,129, 132,135, 141, 142 have been renumbered respectively 1-13, 43-49,51-53, 14-17, 19-33, 54-57,59,60,58,18,61-68, 50,69,35-37, 34, 70,38, 39, 71-73, 40, 41, 74, 42, 76-84, 86, 85, 87, 88, 91, 92, 75, 89, 93, 90.
- 4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Pavelko on 2/12/10

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 3, change "machine" to --machine--.

Claim 8, line 2, change "transmission" to --transmissions--.

Note the change to claim 8 corrects the wording to match the wording used in the patent.

Application/Control Number: 09/686,626 Page 3

Art Unit: 2121

5. Remarks: the change to claim 1 inserts the required underlining of an insertion in a reissue application.

- 6. The declarations filed 1/7/09, 4/2/09, 7/1/09, and 9/18/09 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Sokal et al. reference. The declarations fail to establish conception, diligence, and a constructive reduction to practice required to remove Sokal 5,953,504 as a reference. The claims however have been amended to patentably define over the prior art.
- 7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Lockwood Re. 32,115; Bradt 4,839,505; Brandes 5,090,589; Huegel 5,239,480; Brown 5,445,295; Small 5,513,117; Kolls 5,637,845; Sokal 5,953,504, and Mills 1,697,537 are the closest art of record.
- 8. The prior art however fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the combination set forth in regards to claim 1 and its dependent claims of a vending machine comprising a computer assembly connected to said storage unit and dispensing mechanism, selector device and payment control device and having a computer, video display screen and a communication network, whereby said computer is connected to and actuated by said selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a preselected internet site in response to purchase of the selected item, dispensing; the selected item, and automatically displaying information obtained from said internet site on said video screen for viewing by the customer, said computer assembly further including customer actuating means for enabling a customer to interface with said computer; said computer having programming responsive to payment of an additional

Application/Control Number: 09/686,626

Art Unit: 2121

amount in excess of the amount required to purchase the selected item to provide the customer access to at least one website of the customer's choice on the internet through interaction with the vending machine after the selected item is dispensed.

Page 4

- 9. The prior art however fails to teach , suggest, or render obvious the combination set forth in claim 12 of a retrofit door assembly comprising, a computer assembly connected to said storage unit and dispensing mechanism, selector device mid payment control device, and having a computer, video display screen and a modem, whereby said computer is connected to and actuated by said selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a pre-selected internet site in response to purchase of the selected item, dispensing the selected item, and automatically displaying information obtained from said internet site on said video screen for viewing by the customer; said computer having programming responsive to payment of an additional amount in excess of the amount required to purchase the selected item to provide the customer access to at least one website of the customer's choice on the internet after the selected item is dispensed.
- 10. The prior art however fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the combination set forth in claim 31 (renumbered as claim 13) and its dependent claims of a retrofit door assembly comprising; a delivery port for dispensing at least one drink selected by a customer to the customer, an access portal to the Internet on said door for interaction of the customer through the Internet, so that the customer may choose a website to view on the video screen; said computer is connected to and actuated by a selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a preselected Internet site in

Art Unit: 2121

response to purchase of a selected drink, dispensing the selected drink and automatically displaying information obtained from said Internet site on said video screen for viewing by the customer; said computer having programming responsive to payment of an additional amount in excess of an amount required to purchase a selected drink to provide the customer access to at least one website of the customer's choice on the Internet after dispensing a purchased drink.

11. The prior art however fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the method of providing a customer access to the Internet set forth in claim 114 (renumbered as claim 76) and its dependent claims with the method comprising: purchasing at least one physical item connects the customer, via the Internet, to at least one pre-selected website: accessing at least one additional website of the customer's choice after said at least one physical item has been purchased and dispensed, said accessing comprising at least one of inserting money or credit card information into the vending machine in excess of an amount required for the purchase of said at least one item: and customer input of data to a computer.

The prior art however fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the method of attracting greater patronage to a vending machine for drinks, set forth in claim 127 (renumbered as claim 91) and its dependent claims with the method comprising automatically connecting a customer to at least one predetermined website and displaying the at least one predetermined website on the video screen in response: to actuation of the money acceptor or credit card reader in an amount required to purchase a drink; upon purchase of the drink, causing a drink to be vended to the

Application/Control Number: 09/686,626

Art Unit: 2121

customer and providing a predetermined time period for which the customer is automatically connected to at least one predetermined website; and, thereafter providing the customer access to at least one website of the customer's choice on the Internet/world wide web through interaction with said vending machine by the payment of an additional amount in excess of the amount required to purchase the drink, which customer's choice of website is displayed on the screen.

Page 6

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN R. GARLAND whose telephone number is (571)272-3741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on 571-272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number: 09/686,626 Page 7

Art Unit: 2121

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Albert DeCady/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2121 Steven R Garland Examiner Art Unit 2121

/Steven R Garland/ Examiner, Art Unit 2121